

06 EASY TIPS

For Staying Safe on Your Boat This Summer

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Pay Attention to the Weather

Keep an eye on the weather as you approach the day of your outing. Take the time to check the weather report again before you head out. While news reporters are a great source of information, don't fail to trust what you see and feel.

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Common Sense Is Your Ally

Use your common sense when operating a vessel. Stay alert, avoid steering your boat into other watercraft, stay sober and be respectful of objects in the water. Some of the worst accidents occur because of a general disregard for safety.

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Have a Plan

A basic float plan, which should be shared with someone you trust, will include your name and address, the names and contact information for all passengers, your trip itinerary and the types of communication devices that are located on the vessel.

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Use Life Jackets

Most people who are killed in boating accidents were not wearing personal flotation devices, a.k.a. life jackets. You should have one for yourself and each passenger on board your boat, plus a few extra just in case.

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Take a Safety Course

A boating course is just as important as having gone through driver's education before you got behind the wheel of a car. Though California doesn't require you take this type of course, it's still a good idea to do so.

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Contact the Coast Guard

Many people don't know that the US Coast Guard offers a free safety check for boaters. They will come aboard to conduct a complimentary evaluation. Once the inspection is complete, they will offer you solutions and tips to help ensure your safety.

Learn more at:
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